Salt lodisation Scheme. No adverse efforts on account of consumption of Iodised salt have come to the notice of the Government of India. On the contrary results of Longitudinal studies conducted in Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh by Prof. Ramalingaswami (Retd., D. G., ICMR) etc. have clearly revealed the effectiveness of Iodised salt in reduction of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorder. The experts in the field of Goitre and other IDDs have supported the policy of Universal Salt lodisation. There are 22 other countries in the Woild which have successfully prevented the problem of Goitre through Universal Salt lodisation.

Discriminatory circular issued by AIR India

1165. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Hostesses of Air India, their Association, the Air Corporations Employees Union, Trade Unions and Women's Organisations jhave protested against AIR INDIA'S November 2, 1990 Circular which prohibits an Air Hostess from flying duty after the age of 45; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the matter and withdraw the said discriminatory circular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The circular is not discriminatory and there is no proposal to withdraw it.

Losses incurred by State Electricity Boards

1166. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Electriticy Boards have incurred losses to the tune of Rs. 12, 000 crores during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what steps are under consideration of Government to minimise the commercial losses by the State Electricity Boards in the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) No, Sir. Losses have been estimated at Rs. 2172 crores.

(b) Steps taken to improve the performance of the State Electricity Boards include amendment to the statute requiring the Boards to earn return of 3 per cent surplus on fixed assets and making theft of power cognizable offence; implementation of Centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation schemes for uprating the performance of the thermal power stations; introduction of meritrious productivity reward scheme for improved performance. The need to improve the financial position of the SEBs has been emphasised to the State Government from time to time and for taking steps like resorting to equity participation, subsidizing the losses for supply of power to the agricultural secotr, revision of tariff etc.

AIR traffic congestion over Northern Bay of Bengal

1167. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the air traffic congestion problems over northern Bay of Bengal of the sub continent; and

(b) if so, what efforts Goveinment are making to improve he situation?